

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

Recipes for Life Afterlife in Contemporary Australia

4 April 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Room: EZ.G.22 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

At a time of acute division and rancour, this discussion explores sources of harmony among everyday rituals and within the comforts of home cooking. It offers, as an example, the ancestor worship practices of Kim Huynh's Mum and Dad, incorporating their history as Vietnamese refugees and linear, cyclical and ever-present concepts of time. In this way, the Huynh family's death anniversary feasts showcase the harmonious blending of tri-fold Australia: British European, multicultural, and Indigenous. The seminar will also include recorded responses from Kim's parents to questions such as, "How do they want to be remembered?", "What rituals should be performed for them after their passing?", and "Is there a soul?". This work arises from a Whitlam Essay Residency and an ABC Religion & Ethics piece titled 'Feast for the deceased: A recipe for finding harmony among everyday places, people, and moments'.

Biography

Kim Huynh is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations and Deputy Head of the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University. He is an ABC Radio Canberra presenter and the author of Australia's Refugee Politics in the 21st Century: STOP THE BOATS!

Presenter: Kim Huynh
Discussant: Vivian Pham
Chair: Daniel Carrington

Research Alignment:
Borders and Migration

NEXT SEMINAR:
11 APRIL